

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 5, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording method comprising the steps
of ~~of~~ of:

preparing pigment inks of plural ~~colors~~ colors; and
ejecting the inks to form colored pixels on a recording medium to conduct
recording,

wherein with respect to at least one color of the plural colors, a thick pigment ink
containing a pigment at a relatively high concentration and a thin pigment ink containing the
pigment at a relatively low concentration are used, and the average particle diameter of pigment
particles contained in the thin pigment ink is greater than the average particle diameter of
pigment particles contained in the thick pigment ink.

2. (Original) The ink-jet recording method according to claim 1, wherein the
average particle diameter of the pigment contained in the thin pigment ink is not smaller than 100
nm, but smaller than 500 nm.

3. (Original) The ink-jet recording method according to claim 2, wherein the
average particle diameter of the pigment contained in the thick pigment ink is not smaller than 50
nm, but smaller than 100 nm.

4. (Original) The ink-jet recording method according to claim 1, wherein
said ink ejecting step includes forming bubbles in the inks using thermal energy to eject the inks
by a pressure generated by the formation of the bubbles.

5. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus ~~comprising~~
comprising:

a plurality of ink-jet recording heads for respectively ejecting pigment inks of plural colors to form colored pixels on a recording medium to conduct recording,

wherein with respect to at least one color of the plural colors, an ink-jet recording head for ejecting a thick pigment ink containing a pigment at a relatively high concentration and an ink-jet recording head for ejecting a thin pigment ink containing the pigment at a relatively low concentration are provided, and the average particle diameter of pigment particles contained in the thin pigment ink is greater than the average particle diameter of pigment particles contained in the thick pigment ink.

6. (Original) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the average particle diameter of the pigment contained in the thin pigment ink is not smaller than 100 nm, but smaller than 500 nm.

7. (Original) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the average particle diameter of the pigment contained in the thick pigment ink is not smaller than 50 nm, but smaller than 100 nm.

8. (Original) The ink-jet recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the ink-jet recording heads are each equipped with a heater for forming bubbles in the inks using thermal energy.